



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Wednesday - July 31, 2002

- ***In the West***, cooler weather is easing heat stress on pastures and dryland summer crops across the ***interior Northwest***, although soil moisture remains limited. Elsewhere in the region, isolated showers are confined to portions of the ***Desert Southwest***.
- ***On the Plains***, excessively hot weather (today's high temperatures are forecast to range from 100 to 105 degrees F) continues to severely stress pastures and dryland summer crops in ***South Dakota, Nebraska, eastern Colorado, and much of Kansas***. Summer crops are benefiting from recent soil moisture improvements on the ***southern Plains*** and cooler weather on the ***northern High Plains***.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, showers and thunderstorms are keeping the ***upper Mississippi Valley*** well-watered, but the remainder of the ***Midwest*** is in need of rain to prevent additional moisture stress on reproductive to filling corn and soybeans. Summer crops remain largely free of heat stress in the ***eastern Corn Belt***, but today's high temperatures are forecast to range from 95 to 105 degrees F in the ***westernmost Corn Belt***.
- ***In the South***, scattered showers continue to benefit pastures and rain-fed summer crops, especially from the ***Delta eastward***. However, persistently hot weather (high temperatures approaching 100 degrees F) in the ***southern Atlantic region*** are offsetting the beneficial effects of recent topsoil moisture improvements.

Outlook: During the second half of the week, thunderstorms are likely along a cold front in the ***northern Plains and upper Midwest***, accompanied by cooler weather. Hot but less humid weather will prevail in the ***Mid-Atlantic States***, while periods of rain will persist across the ***Southeast and Delta***. Heat will increase across the ***Corn Belt***, although showers may provide some relief by week's end. Scattered showers will also accompany hot weather across the ***central Plains, Rockies, and Southwest***, while mostly dry, warm weather will prevail in the ***southern Plains and Great Basin***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for August 5-9 calls for hotter-than-normal weather for most of the nation, excluding the ***Gulf Coast and New England***. Above-normal precipitation is forecast for the ***northern Plains, upper Mississippi Valley, and Gulf Coast States***, while below-normal rainfall is expected across the ***Rockies and Corn Belt***.

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